

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 02047 041607Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-07 IO-13 /097 W  
-----042120Z 059113 /67

R 041602Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0311  
INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02047

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, MU, US  
SUBJECT: PRESS CARRIES OMANI DENIAL THAT US WILL BE  
GRANTED BASE ON MASIRAH

REFERENCE: LONDON 1862

1. GUARDIAN IN BRIEF PIECE ON INSIDE PAGE FEBRUARY 4  
REPORTS DENIAL BY OMANI FONMIN ZAWAWI THAT OMAN HAS  
GRANTED USG BASE FACILITIES ON MASIRAH. FEBRUARY 4 TIMES  
CARRIES LENGTHY ARTICLE ON SUBJECT BY DAVID HOLDEN, WHO  
RECENTLY VISITED OMAN AND INTERVIEWED SULTAN QABOOS.  
HOLDEN REPORTS DURING THIS INTERVIEW QABOOS DENIED THAT  
HE HAS ANY INTENTION OF GRANTING THE US A "BASE" ON  
MASIRAH, ALTHOUGH "IF A FRIEND ASKS US FOR AN AIRCRAFT  
TO LAND, IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES WE WOULD HAVE NO OB-  
JECTION". HOLDEN REPORTED THAT ZAWAWI HAD YESTERDAY  
SENT HIM A MESSAGE FROM MUSCAT REITERATING THE SULTAN'S  
POSITION AND CALLING THE GUARDIAN REPORT UNTRUE. HOLDEN  
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SAYS THAT THE SULTAN HAS AGREED TO ONLY "OCCASIONAL  
LANDING RIGHTS" AND THAT "THERE WILL BE NO AMERICAN PER-  
SONNEL BASED ON MASIRAH". HOLDEN ADDS, "OMANI SOURCES  
SUGGEST THAT MOSCOW AND OTHER HOSTILE PARTIES--INCLUDING  
THE MARXIST GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH YEMEN--ARE SPREADING THE  
STORY IN ORDER TO EMBARRASS SULTAN QABOOS AND THE  
AMERICANS IN ARAB EYES."

2. LUCAS, HEAD OF FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT, INFORMS US THAT OMANI EMBASSY HERE HAS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PRESS REPORTS THAT THE OMANIS ARE GRANTING THE US A "BASE". IN ADDITION, SAID LUCAS, DURING A RECENT SHORT VISIT TO LONDON BY PDRY MINISTER OF PLANNING ABDUL WALI, LATTER TOLD LUCAS THAT THIS ISSUE IS NOW ONE OF THE OBSTACLES PREVENTING AN IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PDRY AND OMAN. THE OTHER OBSTACLES CITED BY ABDUL WALI CONCERNED CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF IRANIAN HOSTILITY TO PDRY.

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 04-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977LONDON02047  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 LONDON 1862  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PRESS CARRIES OMANI DENIAL THAT US WILL BE GRANTED BASE ON MASIRAH  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MU, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009